Updating the telecom technology

1514. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Committee for working out details of involving private sector in operation of value added telecome services, as part of its overall thrust to update telecom technology and services in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of references of the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows: —

(1) To identify services which could be classified as value added services and their details.

(2) To recommend conditions and obligations of the applicant and the Department of Telecom with regard to system specifications, operational procedures, policy for expansion, terms of licensing, terms of surrender etc.

(3) To recommend the method of selection of franchise and whether two or more applicants are to be selected for congruent geographical areas.

(4) To recommend method of laying down licence fee/levy in accordance with the laws of the country and which will also allow the Department to generate necessary subsidies for telecom development in rural and other backward areas.

Post office in Mayur Vihar Phase-II Delhi

1515. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS *be* pleased to state:

(a) whether Government havi re ceived any representation from the residents of Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi for opening of a Post Office there;

ft if so, to action taken ther? vi; and

(c) if not, the leasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two Post Offices in Mayur Vihar Phase-I.

(1) Mayur Vihar

(2) Mayur Vihar Extension.

Mayur Vihar Extension Post Office will be shifted to Mayur Vihar Phase. II on availability of suitable accommodation in that area.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting of telephones in Bombay

1516. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a; whether it is a fact that in cases of shifting of telephones ever. in the same exchange area in Bombay City, there is considerable delay in executing the work;

(b) if so. what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of such cases pending for more than thirty days in each exchange area of Bombay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House,

(b) Delay occurs due to the follo wing reasons:

(1) Subscribers are not available.

(2) Subscriber's premises are found closed.

(3) Dispute between applicant and Occupant.

(4) Premises not being ready.

(5) Cable laying could not be completed in newly constructed Housing Colonies.

(c) The required information is being compiled and will be placed on the table of the House.

Installation of new telephone in Bombay

1517. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SW\-MY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Issue of Orders for providing new telephone connections by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Bombay there is considerable delay of more than thirty days in installation and commissioning of the telephone connections;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the staff uses these delaying tactics to extort money from the applicants; and

(c) what fool-proof system the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam authorities propose to adopt to minimise delays and avoid corruption in such matters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU);. (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to avoid unfair practice and delay in installation of telephones, following steps have been taken:

(1) The likely time by which the connection shall be installed is intimated to all the applicants in advance.

(2) In most of the cases when telephones are provided on bulk release the same are installed and commissioned roadwise/building-wise simultaneously.

(3) The cable works are planned and taken up in advance.

(4) The subscribers' fittings are arranged in advance in all bulk re lease of telephone connections.

Delivery of Mail in Rural Areas

1518. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the delay in delivery of telegrams, Money orders, letters and Registered letters all over the country specially in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION'S (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. No case of recuring delay to mail in any sector, including the rural areas has been noticed or reported. Except for a small part [OI] mail, every postal article tranjsits through one or more mail offices depending on the destination. Occasional dislocations in the mail system on account of transport failure, unusual bulk of the mail or shortage of operative staff have an adverse effect, which may lead to cumulative delays sometimes.